

Senate Bill X7-7

Agricultural Listening Sessions



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Purpose of the Listening Sessions

- Discuss agricultural provisions of SBX7-7
- Provide initial understanding by DWR staff
- Share potential approaches for implementation of SBX7-7
- Share info on Public Process
- Solicit input from public

Today's Agenda

- Overview of SBx7-7 Requirements
- Presentation: Methods for quantifying the efficiency of agricultural water use
 - Public Input/Discussion
- Presentation: Regulations that provide options for agriculture water suppliers to comply with measurement requirements
 - Public Input/Discussion

SBX7-7 Defines “Ag Water Supplier” as:

A water supplier, either publicly or privately owned, providing water to 10,000 or more irrigated acres, excluding recycled water.

“Ag Water supplier” includes a supplier or contractor for water, regardless of basis of right, that distribute or sells water for ultimate resale to customers. (AG WS does not include the Department.)

Ag Water Suppliers are Required to:

- Implement the following on or before July 31, 2012
 - Measure the volume of water delivered
 - Adopt a pricing structure
- Implement all cost-effective EWMPs

Ag Water Suppliers are Required to:

- Prepare / adopt AWMPs on or before Dec 31, 2012
 - EWMPs implemented / planned
 - WUE improvements occurred / to occur
 - Document why EWMPs not implemented (*not cost-effective, technically infeasible*)
- Update AWMPs
 - on or before December 31, 2015
 - on or before December 31 every 5 years thereafter

DWR'S Responsibilities

- Develop a methodology for quantification of agricultural water use efficiency (**Project A1**)
- Develop and adopt Regulation that provides a range of options for agricultural water measurement (**A2**)
- Update agricultural efficient water management practices (**A3**)
- Report to Legislature on Ag EWMPs and Ag Water Management Plans (**A4 + A5**)

DWR'S Responsibilities

- Revise requirements for AWMPs/ Develop AWMP Guidebook (**A6**)
- Revise the eligibility for state water management grants and loans (**A7**)
- Develop a single Standardized Water Use Reporting Form (**B1**)
- Promote regional water resources management practices (**B2**)

Questions?

SBX7 Requires DWR:

To develop a methodology for quantification of agricultural water use efficiency (Project A1)

- Alternatives include, but not limited to, determination of efficiency levels based on crop type or irrigation system distribution uniformity
- Report to the Legislature on a proposed methodology and a plan for implementation by December 31, 2011
- Implementation plan shall include
 - estimated implementation costs
 - types of data needed to support the methodology

Quantifying Ag WUE

Discussion Paper 1:

DWR Staff's preliminary understanding:

- Methods will address different spatial scales
 - Potential scales could be:
 - On-farm
 - Agricultural water supplier
 - Region
- Data needs vary with each scale
- Data collection methods/responsibilities may vary with each scale

Quantifying Ag WUE

Discussion Paper 1:

- **Should the methodology account for?**
 - Spatial scale
 - Temporal scale
 - Irrigation systems
 - Irrigation water source

Quantifying Ag WUE

Discussion Paper 1:

- **Data Needs**

- What data should be collected?
- Who should collect the data?
- Data quality control

Quantifying Ag WUE

Discussion Paper 1:

- Cost considerations
- Plan for implementation

Quantifying Ag WUE

Discussion Paper 1:

Comments and Discussion

SBX7-7 Requires DWR:

To develop and adopt regulation for agricultural water measurement (A2)

- Range of options ag water suppliers may use or implement
 - to measure volume with sufficient accuracy
 - to comply with Section 531.10

SBX7-7 Requires

- Ag water suppliers to comply by July 2012
- DWR to complete this task by July 2011
- Initial regulation adoption deemed an emergency
- DWR to Report to Legislature

Agricultural Water Measurement

Discussion Paper 2:

DWR Staff's preliminary understanding:

- Applies to retail and wholesale suppliers
- Measurement to occur at physical “hand off” of control of water between supplier’s delivery system and customer’s point of delivery
- Regulations will provide for range of options suppliers “may use or implement”
 - Interpretation: suppliers choose among options, but must follow regulation

Agricultural Water Measurement

Discussion Paper 2:

- **AB 1404**

- Aggregate farm-gate delivery
- Best professional practices
“Practices attaining and maintaining accuracy of measurement and reporting devices and methods”
- Locally cost-effective
- 2,000 acres (or 2,000 af annually delivered) threshold
- Reporting

- **SBX7-7**

- Affected: more than 10,000 irrigated acres
- Less than 25,000 acres only need to comply if funding is provided

Agricultural Water Measurement

Discussion Paper 2:

- **Regulations to provide a range of options for measurement.**

Should options include:

- Specific hardware devices?
- Accuracy standards?
- Both?

Agricultural Water Measurement

Discussion Paper 2:

- **Accuracy standards**
 - Uniform for all conditions?
 - Vary by delivery system
 - Pressurized systems/pipes
 - Open channel/gravity systems
 - Automated
 - Hand-operated

Agricultural Water Measurement

Discussion Paper 2:

- **Accuracy of measurement established through:**
 - Manufacturer rating
 - Field testing, calibration, documentation, and reporting.
 - Frequency/How often
- **Should regulations address:**
 - Only measurement options?
 - Related issues
 - Data management
 - Quality control

Agricultural Water Measurement

Discussion Paper 2:

- **What to measure?**
 - Water delivered to customers by an ag water supplier
 - Does not include groundwater pumped from private wells
 - Does not include irrigation return, except if collected by ag supplier and provided to other customers
- **Where to measure?**
 - At customer's turnout
 - At point of change in control

Agricultural Water Measurement

Discussion Paper 2:

- Other measurement information to consider
 - USBR measurement guidelines
 - CALFED measurement report

Discussion Paper 2:

Comments?

Discussion

Please e-mail additional suggestions to:

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